

Remarks

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-33 were subject to an election requirement. Claim 1 is the independent claim. Examination of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The examiner asserted that the application recites claims directed to four patentably distinct species, and requires election of one of these species for further examination. The examiner explained that the species are independent or distinct because they have mutually exclusive characteristics, and are not obvious variants of each other. The applicants respectfully disagree, and traverse this requirement. The claims all recite a device for microfluid analyses having the common feature of a membrane sub-dividing the chamber of the device into two sectional chambers. Thus, all of the recited embodiments are linked by a common inventive concept, and election of species should not be required.

As required, the applicants elect the first species, that is, the device as illustrated in Fig. 1. Claims 1-5, 14-16, 18-31, and 33 recite this device. If the election requirement is maintained, and claim 1 or another claim considered generic to all of the claims is allowed, the applicants reserve the right to consideration of the unelected claims. Therefore, the unelected claims are not canceled at this time.

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Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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